

THE
Bloomfield Record
A WEEKLY JOURNAL
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Revision of Borough Laws.

Representatives of twenty-four New Jersey boroughs met in Trenton on Monday to receive the report of the special Legislative Committee which was appointed a couple of weeks ago to devise some scheme toward improving the existing borough laws. A draft of a bill was submitted for consideration, but was referred back to the committee, with power to put it in shape and present it to the Legislature.

It provides that borough clerks be appointed by Council and not elected, and that their terms shall be in the discretion of Council; that a treasurer may be appointed in addition to a collector; that the borough election shall be held on the same day as the township election in which the borough is located; that the borough solicitor and assessor need not give bonds.

It provides that Councilmen shall be elected for three-year terms and they must live in the ward they represent; a quorum of Councilmen to consist of four members or three members and the Mayor.

The bill provides for the election of a Mayor and six members of Council, a Freeholder, Assessor, Collector, three Commissioners of Appeals, Poundkeeper and Overseer of the Poor. The appointive officers are Marshal, Clerk, Commissioner of Highways, three Commissioners of Assessment, who shall also be Sinking Fund Commissioners, Solicitor, Police-Justice, and a many police officers as Council may provide by ordinance. The Mayor and Council may appoint a borough engineer if they see fit. The salary of the Mayor is not to exceed \$300, and the term shall be two years; Council shall receive no salary and the members shall be elected for three years. The term of office Borough Clerk shall be optional with Council; Freeholder, three years; Assessor, three years; Collector, three years; Commissioners of Appeal, one year; Poundkeeper, one year; Overseer of Poor, one year; Borough Council at will of Council; Commissioners of Highways, one year; Commissioners of Assessment, three years; Police Justice, one year; Police, will of Council. The salaries are to be fixed by Council.

The delegates decided that each borough shall be separate in matter of local government and each shall have a separate school district. When there are over 600 voters in a borough it shall be divided into wards, the division to be made before the next following the passage of the act.

When the Legislative Committee has perfected the bill printed copies of it will be sent to the borough clerks in the state and any suggestions to be made within five days. The committee will meet in two weeks the American House.

Social Reformation.

An editorial from The New York Tribune, reproduced last week, is worthy of a careful study by students of the times—especially the “apparatus to society” in the last paragraph. The Tribune becomes revolutionaries when it calls upon one class of “city leaders”—to array itself against another and unquestionably the dominant social class, the class that possesses the most wealth, and best uses its power as well as prodigal in consuming it upon their lusts, sways a world quite effectually at the present moment.

In a word, The Tribune makes appeal that will amount to nothing. Society cannot be disciplined or corrected, much less reformed within itself. Probably the show of trying it is without any sincerity whatever. What good can come out of Greater New York along social lines, beginning at the top? Reform will begin at the bottom, if anywhere on earth, and the cheaper papers, not the dearer ones, are the better missionaries. When The Tribune, drawing aside its skirts, from contamination, speaks of “the cheap and nasty press,” of the “drivelings of the drama, and the weakness of the vaudeville and the various activities of the press age” we are disposed to say: “Pot, not the kettle black.” Is the general way of business, all that The Tribune deplores, theatrical and artistic, a grand opera down to Koster & B. it endures in its advertising unmoved.

It is well to talk plausibly of reforming society, of reforming others ourselves, but as things social financial are now drifting along, as idle to talk of reforming society it would be to talk of reforming an egg that had lost its virtue and sweetness by over-keeping. The much reformers as Dr. Parkhurst and Anthony Comstock and so-called

“Christian Citizenship” meddle with social evils (without going radically to the roots of the evil) the more noise the evil becomes. “The love of money is the root of all evil.”

The Bicycle Baggage Bill.

One of the first bills introduced in the Legislature will be the bicycle baggage bill, which the organized wheelmen of the State will make a vigorous fight to have passed. The Chief Counsel of the L. A. W. G. Frank Kreker, has issued a circular to the members in the State, urging them to make every reasonable effort to have it enacted by bringing all proper influences to bear upon the legislature of their locality. The bicycle baggage bill is as follows:

It is enacted by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

That any person who shall have purchased a ticket issued by any railroad corporation entitling such person to transportation on its railroad and ferrys as a passenger, shall have the right, by virtue thereof, to have the transportation, on the same train or boat with such passenger as baggage, of one bicycle, or to four places designated in such ticket, without further or other payment to the railroad corporation therefore. And no passenger shall be required to pay any ordinary or usual bicycle bell or lantern from such bicycle, nor to create, or otherwise protect such bicycle.

2. Any railroad corporation refusing to transport bicycles, or refusing except the same for transportation as baggage, in violation of the next preceding section, shall forfeit and pay to the state the sum of \$100 for each and every offense, to recover the action of debt in any Court of competent jurisdiction.

3. And it is enacted that this act shall take effect immediately.

The L. A. W. is very strong in Montclair, Glen Ridge, Bloomfield and other parts of the legislative district now represented by Assembyman C. W. Powers. He has here an opportunity to make himself solid with the cyclists by supporting this bill, it should be opposed by the railroad companies.

The Legislature.

Speaker Macpherson announced the appointment of his Committee on Monday, three years; Collector, three years; Commissioners of Appeal, one year; Poundkeeper, one year; Overseer of Poor, one year; Borough Council at will of Council; Commissioners of Highways, one year; Commissioners of Assessment, three years; Police Justice, one year; Police, will of Council. The salaries are to be fixed by Council.

He was overjoyed to see that the committee of which he may be seen by this story by Judge Seymour D. Thompson.

McNab was the hero of a hairbreadth escape. It was in Canada, where McNab, a brave Scot, was a fellow countryman of my father, the Rev. Seymour D. Thompson.

The two became separated on the night of McNab's adventure. The Scot, who was riding through a forest unshod, had a package of Bibles on one side of his saddle and another string of frozen sausages, which were to be thawed and cooked for his breakfast. A highwayman stopped him, and the Scot, who was as simple-minded as a world's business man who had just made a real estate deal which netted him thousands of dollars—Boston Herald.

He was frightened. He never denied that. He had a little money in his boot, and leaned over to remove the boot and satisfy the demands of the highwayman, and struck against the frozen sausages. The highwayman was a kind of beetle which would be a great care in handling dead snakes will be a matter of common sense precaution.

Auntie's Practical Arithmetic.

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